

In the Claims:

1. (original) A shading apparatus comprising in combination: a folding umbrella providing an elongated structural supporting shaft having a lower end thereof adapted for securement relative to a supporting surface for holding the umbrella in an upright attitude, an upper end thereof for supporting a canopy; the canopy providing a fabric panel stretched over a plurality of folding ribs hingably engaged with the support shaft, each of the ribs movable between a position adjacent to the supporting shaft and a position extending radially therefrom, the ribs each terminating with a rib tip, the canopy forming a convex upfacing surface with the ribs in the radially extending position; and a means for securing including an elongate flexible strap having, at one end thereof, an adjustable loop fitted over, and thereby secured on, the upper end of the supporting shaft, and at the other end an eyelet engaged with one of the rib tips, the flexible strap further providing a means for length adjustment for tensioning the flexible strap between the upper end of the supporting shaft and the one of the rib tips; the securing means further comprising a securing line removably fixed at a proximal end thereof to the flexible strap and at a distal end thereof to the supporting surface.
2. (original) The combination of claim 1 further comprising a ground stake fixing the distal end of the securing line to the supporting surface.
3. (original) The combination of claim 1 further comprising a ring engaged with the other end of the flexible strap, the ring receiving the proximal end of the securing line.
4. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein the supporting shaft is pointed at the lower end thereof for piercing the supporting surface.
5. (currently amended) An apparatus for securing a beach umbrella, the apparatus comprising: an elongate flexible strap having, at one end thereof, ~~an adjustable~~ a loop for fitting over, and thereby being secured on, an upper end of the beach umbrella, and at the other end of the flexible strap, an eyelet of a size for tightly engaging a rib tip of the beach umbrella when a canopy of the beach umbrella is in the open state;

the flexible strap further providing a means for length adjustment sufficient for tensioning the flexible strap between the upper end of the beach umbrella and the rib tip and thereby capturing the flexible strap on the umbrella; the flexible strap further providing a terminally engaged ring; the apparatus further comprising a securing line removably engaged with the ring of the flexible strap, fixed at a proximal end thereof to the flexible strap and at a distal end thereof of the securing line, to a surface used for supporting the beach umbrella; the securing line forming a downwardly divergent angle with respect to a support shaft of the umbrella.

6. (currently amended) The combination of claim 5 further comprising a ground stake fixing the distal end of the securing line to the supporting surface.
7. (cancelled) The combination of claim 5 further comprising a ring engaged with the other end of the flexible strap, the ring receiving the proximal end of the securing line.
8. (original) A method for securing a beach umbrella comprising the steps of: providing a folding umbrella having an elongated structural supporting shaft; securing a lower end of the shaft relative to a supporting surface for holding the umbrella in an upright attitude; supporting a canopy at an upper end of the shaft; the canopy providing a fabric panel stretched over a plurality of folding ribs hingably engaged with the support shaft, each of the ribs movable between a position adjacent to the supporting shaft and a position extending radially therefrom; terminating each of the ribs with a rib tip; tightening an adjustable loop of a flexible strap over the upper end of the supporting shaft; securing an eyelet of the flexible strap over one of the rib tips; adjusting the flexible strap to provide tension between the rib tip and the upper end of the supporting shaft; and fastening a securing line between the flexible strap and the supporting surface.
9. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of securing the securing line to the supporting surface with a stake.
10. (original) The combination of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a ring engaged with the flexible strap and engaging the securing line with the ring.